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10 ENDANGERED PROPERTIES FOR '98—THE PRESERVATION ALLIANCE OF MINNESOTA LISTS STRUCTURES THREATENED BY STORMS, DEMOLITION OR NEGLECT

(By Linda Mack)

The entire city of St. Peter, "ma and pa" resorts up north, boarded-up buildings at Fort Snelling and a former dairy farm near Brainerd are listed among Minnesota's 10 most endangered properties of 1998.

Threatened by demolition, neglect or storm damage, the 10 buildings or groups of buildings have been selected by the Preservation Alliance of Minnesota, a statewide nonprofit membership group, to draw attention to the state's historic resources and the need for their preservation.

George Edwards, who moved to Minneapolis recently from Atlanta, GA, to head the Preservation Alliance, said Minnesota's endangered buildings "face the same threats that we're seeing around the country—under-appreciation of our heritage, neglect and a shift in priorities."

Apart from the tornado-ravaged buildings of St. Peter, many of which will be rebuilt, the challenge for most of the communities is finding new uses for old buildings whose original purpose has been lost, such as the old City Hall in Nashwauk or the Hotel Lac qui Parle in Madison. Or, in the case of the small resorts built in the early 20th century, the key to preservation may be building a coalition of historic resorts to do joint marketing. The list, said Edwards, is just a start.

The update on last year's 10 most endangered properties is mixed.

The Stillwater Bridge may have a better chance of surviving because of a recent ruling by a federal judge that a new bridge across the St. Croix River would adversely affect the scenic riverway. Historic buildings at the University of Minnesota's Twin Cities campus are being studied for reuse rather than slated for demolition. The Washburn Crosby "A" Mill on the Minneapolis riverfront has been stabilized and the Utility Building next to it will be redeveloped for housing. Red Wing's Washington School was demolished, but the city's Central High School is being studied for reuse and is still being used.

The future of other properties on last year's list—such as the Mannheimer-Goodkind House in St. Paul, the Handicraft Building in downtown Minneapolis and Albert Lea's downtown commercial buildings—remains uncertain.

DEPARTMENT OF THE DAKOTA BUILDINGS, FORT SNELLING, HENNEPIN COUNTY

Built between 1879 and 1905, the 28 buildings on 141 acres of land overlooking the Minnesota River form a familiar landmark near the Minneapolis-St. Paul International Airport, but they are now mostly empty and boarded-up. Competing interests of state and federal agencies have stalled resolution of their future. The Minnesota Department of Natural Resources is now sponsoring a re-use study. The buildings were on the list of endangered buildings last year as well.

ANOKA AMPHITHEATER, ANOKA, ANOKA COUNTY

This little-known but charming open air theater overlooking the Mississippi River was designed by Prairie School architects Purcell and Elmslie in 1914. Unused for many years and in need of work, the amphitheater sits in the way of a road widening planned by the Minnesota Department of Transportation. The road wouldn't take the whole theater, but it would lop off the back of it. Other alternatives should be pursued, say preservationists, and the amphitheater kept as part of a park.

ARMSTRONG-QUINLAN HOUSE, ST. PAUL, RAMSEY COUNTY

The 1886 red brick Romanesque house sits in literal and metaphorical limbo surrounded by parking lots on the edge of downtown St. Paul. Owned by the state of Minnesota, it is a lonely reminder of an earlier grand era of residential buildings in downtown St. Paul. It's unlikely the construction of a new hockey arena nearby will help resolve its future.

EARLY 20TH CENTURY RESORTS, CASS COUNTY AND ELSEWHERE

The small rustic resorts run by owner-operators grew up in the early automobile era and make up a charming part of the northern Minnesota landscape. But bigger, fancier resorts, often with centralized operations, are the wave of the future. And the rise in property values and taxes makes it harder and harder for "ma and pa" operators to survive.

DISTRICT NO 5 SCHOOLHOUSE, BERGEN TOWNSHIP, MCLEOD COUNTY

Rural schoolhouses are fast disappearing, and this red brick one built about 1910 is among the most endangered of a number nominated for the list. Their original use is outmoded, but they form a significant part of the rural landscape.

HOTEL LAC QUI PARLE, MADISON, LAC QUI PARLE COUNTY

The city of Madison owns the small hotel on a downtown corner and says there's no reuse. Local citizens argue the building forms an important anchor to downtown's character and have persuaded the city to do a structural analysis. Madison has already lost one landmark, a tiny but ornate Prairie School bank designed by architects Purcell and Elmslie in 1913 and demolished in 1968.

NASHWAUK CITY HALL, NASHWAUK, ITASCA COUNTY

Built in 1915, this solid and graceful civic building is one of three intact city halls constructed in company towns during the boom period of the western Mesabi Iron Range. But the city moved out in 1977, and the building faces demolition because of neglect.

ECHO DAIRY FARM, BRAINERD, CROW WING COUNTY

This impressive complex of high-roofed dairy barns just south of Brainerd was built in the early 1920s as one of Minnesota's first corporate agricultural operations and operated until 1971. The city of Brainerd has bought the complex for expansion of an industrial park.

STONE BUILDINGS OF OTTAWA TOWNSHIP, OTTAWA TOWNSHIP, LE SUEUR COUNTY

Built during the 1850s to 1870s, seven native limestone buildings—houses, churches and a town hall—form a charming remnant of a Minnesota River village that was once a center of stone quarrying. Their future may not be so charming: They stand on land that is a prime target for an advancing silica sand mining operation.

Mr. FALEOMAVAEGA. Mr. Speaker, I have no further requests for time, and I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. HANSEN. Mr. Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Utah (Mr. HANSEN) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 1522, as amended.

The question was taken; and (two-thirds having voted in favor thereof) the rules were suspended and the bill, as amended, was passed.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. HANSEN. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days within which to revise and extend their remarks on H.R. 1522, as amended.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Utah?

There was no objection.

WETLANDS AND WILDLIFE ENHANCEMENT ACT OF 1998

Mr. HEFLEY. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 2556) to reauthorize the North American Wetlands Conservation Act and the Partnerships for Wildlife Act, as amended.

The Clerk read as follows:

H.R. 2556

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the "Wetlands and Wildlife Enhancement Act of 1998".

SEC. 2. REAUTHORIZATION OF NORTH AMERICAN WETLANDS CONSERVATION ACT.

Section 7(c) of the North American Wetlands Conservation Act (16 U.S.C. 4406(c)) is amended by striking "not to exceed" and all that follows through the end of the sentence and inserting "not to exceed \$30,000,000 for each of fiscal years 1999 through 2001."

SEC. 3. REAUTHORIZATION OF PARTNERSHIPS FOR WILDLIFE ACT.

Section 7105(h) of the Partnerships for Wildlife Act (16 U.S.C. 3744(h)) is amended by striking "for each of fiscal years" and all that follows through the end of the sentence and inserting "not to exceed \$3,000,000 for each of fiscal years 1999 through 2001."

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from Colorado (Mr. HEFLEY) and the gentleman from New Jersey (Mr. PALLONE) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Colorado (Mr. HEFLEY).

Mr. HEFLEY. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, today we are voting on H.R. 2556, which authorizes the North American Wetlands Conservation Act and the Partnerships for Wildlife Act.

The North American Wetlands Conservation Act is one of several programs devoted to improving wetlands protection in the United States, Canada and Mexico. It matches Federal dollars with contributions from State, local and private organizations for wetland conservation projects in the U.S., Canada and Mexico that support the North American Wildlife Management plan. The program has resulted in the protection of more than 3 million acres of wetlands in the U.S. and Canada over the past seven years.

The population of most species of migratory ducks and geese in North America have been increasing for the past several years. It is impossible to say whether or not any single program has caused this increase, but habitat conservation is certainly making an important contribution. There is widespread agreement that the North

American Wetlands Conservation Act is a critical part of this effort. The bill, as amended at subcommittee, is strongly supported by Ducks Unlimited and the International Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies.

The Partnerships for Wildlife Act was enacted to ensure that nongame, non-endangered wildlife did not slip through the cracks between existing conservation programs. It also matches Federal dollars with State and local funds to support a wide variety of wildlife conservation and appreciation projects.

H.R. 2556 reauthorizes the North American Wetlands Conservation Act at its current authorization levels for three years. I urge Members to vote aye on this important environmental bill.

Mr. Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. PALLONE. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

(Mr. PALLONE asked and was given permission to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. PALLONE. Mr. Speaker, I rise in strong support of H.R. 2556. This bill helps protect wildlife habitat and will enhance the management of nongame wildlife. I want to thank the subcommittee chairman, the gentleman from New Jersey (Mr. SAXTON) for bringing this legislation before the House. The bill reauthorizes the highly successful North American Wetlands Conservation Act and will improve the management of nongame species of wildlife by reauthorizing the program of Federal matching grants for such activities.

In the seven years of its existence, the North American Wetlands Conservation Act has resulted in the protection of millions of acres of wetlands in the United States, Canada and Mexico. \$244 million in North American wetlands programs grants for this voluntarily, non-regulatory program have been matched by more than \$510 million in funding by conservation partners, conserving valuable habitat for migratory birds and many non-migratory species as well.

The amendment also reauthorizes the Partnerships for Wildlife Act, which provides matching grants for nongame wildlife conservation and appreciation. Unfortunately, we do not have a dedicated source of funding like the Wallop-Breaux Fund for nongame conservation. Lacking a dedicated source of funding, conservation needs for these species are mounting. For example, the states currently estimate their unmet needs for management and conservation of nongame species at over \$300 million annually.

Mr. Speaker, I hope we have the opportunity to give permanent funding for nongame species serious consideration in the near future. But, in the meantime, we will continue doing what we can under the Partnerships for Wildlife Program.

In summary, this is sound legislation to benefit wildlife through non-regu-

latory programs that leverage scarce Federal resources, and I urge the House to support H.R. 2556.

Mr. SAXTON. Mr. Speaker, the North American Wetlands Conservation Act is a program that has proven itself in many ways. The law was designed to be a catalyst for partnerships between various levels of government and the private sector to accomplish incentive-based wetlands conservation. It demanded a non-federal match in order to level federal dollars and the match that has been produced has more than doubled that required threshold. This high match level is one evidence of the success of partnership the Act intended and delivered.

Another group of very important partners are the members of the North American Wetlands Council. These unpaid volunteers contribute incredible numbers of man hours to this process. Ducks Unlimited is an excellent example of a Wetlands Council member. From the beginning of the program DU has volunteered to serve. They not only commit the equivalent of a full time staff member to assist in carrying out Council business, they play a key role in communicating support for the program on Capitol Hill. They have contributed by far and away more match funding continentally for these projects than any other partner group. It is partners like DU with a demonstrated level of commitment that the Act envisions should serve on the North American Wetlands Conservation Council. That kind of commitment is what creates this program's level of success.

Mr. PALLONE. Mr. Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. HEFLEY. Mr. Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Colorado (Mr. HEFLEY) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 2556, as amended.

The question was taken; and (two-thirds having voted in favor thereof) the rules were suspended and the bill, as amended, was passed.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. HEFLEY. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days within which to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous material on H.R. 2556, as amended.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Colorado?

There was no objection.

NEW WILDLIFE REFUGE AUTHORIZATION ACT

Mr. POMBO. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 512) to prohibit the expenditure of funds from the Land and Water Conservation Fund for the creation of new National Wildlife Refuges without specific authorization from Congress pursuant to a recommendation from the United States Fish and Wildlife Service to create the refuge, as amended.

The Clerk read as follows:

H.R. 512

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the "New Wildlife Refuge Authorization Act".

SEC. 2. REQUIREMENTS RELATING TO DESIGNATION OF NEW REFUGES.

(a) LIMITATION ON APPROPRIATIONS FROM LAND AND WATER CONSERVATION FUND.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—No funds are authorized to be appropriated from the land and water conservation fund for designation of a unit of the National Wildlife Refuge System, unless the Secretary of the Interior has—

(A) completed all actions pertaining to environmental review that are required for that designation under the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969;

(B) provided notice to each Member of and each Delegate and Resident Commissioner to the Congress elected to represent an area included in the boundaries of the proposed unit, upon the completion of the preliminary project proposal for the designation; and

(C) provided a copy of each final environmental impact statement or each environmental assessment resulting from that environmental review, and a summary of all public comments received by the Secretary on the proposed unit, to—

(i) the Committee on Resources and the Committee on Appropriations of the House of Representatives;

(ii) the Committee on Environment and Public Works and the Committee on Appropriations of the Senate; and

(iii) each Member of or Delegate or Resident Commissioner to the Congress elected to represent an area included in the boundaries of the proposed unit.

(2) LIMITATION ON APPLICATION.—Paragraph (1) shall not apply to appropriation of amounts for a unit of the National Wildlife Refuge System that is designated, or specifically authorized to be designated, by law.

(b) NOTICE OF SCOPING.—The Secretary shall publish a notice of each scoping meeting held for the purpose of receiving input from persons affected by the designation of a proposed unit of the National Wildlife Refuge System. The notice shall be published in a newspaper distributed in each county in which the refuge will be located, by not later than 15 days before the date of the meeting. The notice shall clearly state that the purpose of the meeting is to discuss the designation of a new unit of the National Wildlife Refuge System.

(c) LIMITATION ON APPLICATION OF FEDERAL LAND USE RESTRICTIONS.—Land located within the boundaries (or proposed boundaries) of a unit of the National Wildlife Refuge System designated after the date of the enactment of this Act shall not be subject to any restriction on use of the lands under Federal law or regulation based solely on a determination of the boundaries, until an interest in the land has been acquired by the United States.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from California (Mr. POMBO) and the gentleman from New Jersey (Mr. PALLONE) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from California (Mr. POMBO).

Mr. POMBO. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

(Mr. POMBO asked and was given permission to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. POMBO. Mr. Speaker, a little history on this particular legislation. I